

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-02 OES-06 MMO-01 NASA-01

USIA-06 IO-13 L-03 OTPE-00 SS-15 OC-05 CCO-00 PRS-01

EB-07 SP-02 ABF-01 OMB-01 PER-01 /081 W

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R 131740Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4448

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 1217

PASS AA/IOC

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, OEXC, AG

SUBJECT: AID BICENTENNIAL SATELLITE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 113800; STATE 114338

1. WHILE GOA MIGHT BE INTRIGUED BY PROPOSED PROGRAM, EMBASSY BELIEVES ALGERIA SHOULD BE GIVEN LOW PRIORITY FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

2. ALGERIA ALREADY HAS EXISTING SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE. ON GROUND STATION IS OPERATIONAL, ANOTHER IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND A NETWORK OF 13 MICROWAVE RELAY STATIONS FOR INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS IS PARTIALLY

COMPLETED. ALGERIA HAS ALSO RECENTLY SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH USGS TO BUY PHOTP INTERPRETATION LABORATORY FOR ERTS PROGRAM. IF OBJECTIVE OF SUBJECT PROGRAM IS TO GENERATE INTEREST IN THESE TECHNOLOGIES IN ALGERIA GOA MAY FEEL IT IS WELL PAST THAT STAGE.

3. FINALLY AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, PROGRAM OF THIS SIZE REQUIRING HEAVY LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IS BEYOND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAPABILITIES OF THIS EMBASSY. PREPARATIONS, TRANS-

PORTATION REQUIREMENTS, AND OTHER NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO PUT ON THREE PRESENTATIONS FOR TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE AT THREE LOCATIONS IN ALGERIA ALL IN ONE WEEK WOULD PUT UNREASONABLE STRAIN ON EMBASSY RESOURCES. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ABSOLUTE ASSURANCES OF EXPEDITIOUS CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF EQUIPMENT, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS KEY ELEMENT IN PROGRAM. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO FORESEE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION FOR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO SITES IN ALGERIA, SHELTER FOR EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS PROVIDING SECURITY AND POWER SOURCE.

4. IN VIEW OF THESE FACTORS WE RECOMMEND THAT ALGERIA NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN BICENTENNIAL SATELLITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PARKER

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